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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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***GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO LEADS U.S. BORDER GOVERNORS IN CALL FOR  
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM***

***Napolitano, Counterparts Participating in Border Governors Conference in Austin, Texas***

(AUSTIN, TX) - In a strongly worded, bipartisan letter to Congress, Governor Janet Napolitano today led the charge among the four U.S. Border states' leaders urging Congress to stop wasting time and take immediate action on immigration reform. The letter, addressed to House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, signed by Napolitano and her counterparts, Arnold Schwarzenegger (CA), Bill Richardson (NM), and Rick Perry (TX), chastises Congress for failing to take action on meaningful immigration reform this year. An excerpt reads: "We have used state and local law enforcement to help enforce the laws the federal government is supposed to enforce. We ask you to do your part."

The letter continues: "Instead of holding dozens of field hearings that do little but stir the pot of discontent, we urge you to get back to work and pass legislation that puts the interest of taxpayers first and solves this crisis once and for all," the letter states. "We ask that you pass comprehensive reform and address this critical issue before Congress adjourns for the year."

Governor Napolitano is in Austin, Texas for the United States-Mexico Border Governors Conference XXIV. In addition to Napolitano, Governors and representatives from California, New Mexico, Texas (2006 host state), Baja California, Sonora, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas are in attendance. The annual meetings enable border governors to discuss and work collaboratively on issues of mutual concern.

"We already have a well-established government relationship with the Mexican state of Sonora," said Governor Napolitano. "It's a prime example of how states north of the border can work well with our counterparts to the south on border security, and it makes good sense to expand that effort." The Governor added, "We still need the federal governments of both of our countries to fully engage in this issue; in the meantime, we cannot allow security at the border to lapse."

More information on Border Governors and the group's work is available at [www.bordergovernorsconference.com](http://www.bordergovernorsconference.com).

Full text of the letter is attached.

For broadcasters:

Pronunciation key:

Coahuila (KWAH-wee-lah)

Tamaulipas (Tah-mau-LEE-puhs)